

10-100 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

JOHN GAULER HOUSES

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

6917

~~5900~~ - 5921 NORTH MAGNOLIA AVENUE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CHICAGO

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

ILLINOIS

CODE

COUNTY

COOK

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES - RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

IRVING P. LETCHINGER and JOSEPH KOVALCHIK

STREET & NUMBER

5921 N. MAGNOLIA AVENUE and ~~5900~~ 6917 N. MAGNOLIA AVENUE

CITY, TOWN

CHICAGO

VICINITY OF

STATE

ILLINOIS

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

COOK COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET & NUMBER

318 NORTH CLARK STREET

CITY, TOWN

CHICAGO

STATE

ILLINOIS

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

IHSS

DATE

1972-1975

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

COOK COUNTY COURTHOUSE Dept. of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

~~CHICAGO~~ Springfield

STATE

ILLINOIS

7 DESCRIPTION

CONITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Physical Description

The John Gauler Houses are located at 5919 and ~~5921~~⁵⁹¹⁷ North Magnolia Street on the east side. The 33 1/3 foot lots are adjacent to the corner lot. The houses are mirror images of each other and together form a detached duplex housing scheme. Their main entrances, on the inner side of each, share a common sidewalk. The houses are rectangular in shape with a rectangular porch projecting from the front toward the street. Their longitudinal axes are perpendicular to the street. Hip roofs of double pitch with wide overhangs at the front and back cover the houses and porches. Exterior walls are stucco trimmed with roughsawn dark-stained wood. The windows are casements stained a dark brown. Each house is sited 12 feet from the sidewalk on a stucco-covered foundation.

The interior is arranged with bedrooms and bath upstairs; living and dining rooms and kitchen on the first floor, all over a below grade basement. The entry foyer serves both the front and back doors of each house and thus opens into the living room and kitchen of each house. The character of the first floor is open with living and dining rooms interconnecting around the solid chimney and stair unit. The stairway is separated from the living room by a wooden screen. This screen forms an integral part of the molding scheme that ties the tops and bottoms of all the windows together in horizontal bands. This is a reflection of the exterior horizontal window bands. The ceiling molding produces a flat rectangular pattern that continues on the ceilings of the living and dining rooms in each house. All trim is oiled oak. The fireplace in the middle of the house has two openings, one into the living room, the other into the dining room. A horizontal molding on the walls about a foot below the ceiling passes just above the openings usually tying the wood screen and chimney to the outer walls. There are four bedrooms, all with windows contiguous to the outside corner.

The houses have only been slightly changed. Some bookcases were added by an earlier occupant who was a minister. Also, glass brick was added in place of some of the windows in both houses. The entrance of 5921 North Magnolia has been altered by moving the front door to the outermost limit of the building; and a half-bath has been added in the newly created space.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. B. Griffin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

After Wright, Walter Griffin was the best of the Prairie architects. Unlike Wright he had been trained as a landscape architect and usually attempted to give his buildings a well-considered siting. The Gauler Houses are thus significant for their unified composition by which Griffin tried to arrange city houses in groups that made the most effective use of valuable land.

Their design in a strong Prairie manner with geometric masses and linear articulation, and their early date, only two years after Griffin entered private practice, also make them significant architecturally.

History

The architect was Mr. Walter Burley Griffin. He was Frank Lloyd Wright's chief assistant until 1906. Griffin was a Prairie School architect who produced many important designs. The most significant was the first prize competition design for his city plan of the Capital of Australia, Canberra. Griffin designed these two houses for John Gauler who built them as speculation ventures in 1909. Gauler, who never lived in the houses, sold them as soon as they were finished in 1909 to Heny C. Jones and George Elliot.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES~~Chicago Architectural Club Annual, 1909 and 1910.~~

~~Prairie School Review, 1970, Vol. VII, No. 1, Pages 5-13,~~
Ill. (sic) Review, 1970
Chicago, Illinois, 1970

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 116 14451229 1461481720
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

~~JOHN JOSEPH MILLER JR.~~*John Joseph Miller Jr.*

JUNE 1, 1976

ORGANIZATION

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

2227 NORTH CLIFTON AVENUE

TELEPHONE

(312) 248-8228

CITY OR TOWN

CHICAGO

STATE

ILLINOIS

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS.

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER